The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,
COIMBATORE.

Meeting of members of Non-political parties to discuss measures over the imposition of Hindi as the Official Language of the Indian Union

Speeches by

Sri C. P. KANDASAMY, B. A., B. L.,
Advocate, Coimbatore,

Dr. Y. P. VASUDEVAN, M. B., B. S.,

Sri C. C. HAMZA,

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Sri M. KARUPPANNAN, B. A., B. L.,
Advocate, Tiruppur,

Sri S. R. SUBRAMANIAM,
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Sri KRISHNASAMY,
Retd. Officer, State Bank of India, Coimbatore,

on **19—2—1965**

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Sri C. P. Kandasamy, B. A., B. L.,

Advocate, Coimbatore.

Mr. President and friends,

Some of the organisers of this meeting first thought that we should hold on this meeting in connection with the present problem that is the language problem and that should be considered in an unbiassed manner, in a calm atmosphere by representatives of the public who are not affiliated to any political persuation. With that idea the meeting was called for. At that time there was prohibitory order in Coimbatore. So we contacted the Collector and requested that we may be permitted to hold the public meeting on the 17th of this month i. e. a few days prior to the Chief Ministers' Conference at Delhi. During our discussion the Collector requested us or even said that there is no objection for a hall meeting and it is not prohibited under the prohibitory order. But it is better that you have the meeting on the morning of that day the prohibitory order comes to an end. Then conceding to his request we agreed to hold

the meeting on the 19th. But all on a sudden though developments have been taking every minute, every hour and every day with regard to this question throughout India and though the situation that has risen recently in Madras State has calmed down for reasons better known they thought to extend the prohibitory order from yesterday for another fourteen days. Then after that we met the District Collector and had a discussion over these and he said and expressed certain difficulties of his own though not perfectly legal that it is better to hold a hall meeting confined to invitees alone and not to all members of the public. We agreed to that in a way so that the invitees and the members who attend the meeting may not feel any difficulty or nervous in attending though I am sure from their face on account of nervousness in attending the meeting. But I can assure every one of you that there is nothing wrong or no infringement of the prohibitory order in holding this meeting. That is by the way.

At the outset I request you gentlemen that it is only a beginning, a calling for a meeting of the members of the public who belong to no political party. A friend of mine also expressed after coming here that he is of the view that it must be made a permanent feature, so that problems when

arise relating to public, that we may consider them without any political bias and give a lead to the people. That is by the way we can decide at the end. But the most important thing for which we have assembled here is the language problem. The language problem must have been in existence ever since the Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly though not the members have been popularly elected representatives of the people, but certain political parties and other leaders. On their choice members were elected and they formed the members of the Constituent Assembly and at a time when the feelings and emotions were high and people were elated over getting independence for our country and they thought that every man will be free after getting independence. He will breathe free air and live in a free country. That was the dreams of the time when independence was declared and that in such an atmosphere the Constituent Assembly met and passed the Constitution and when the Language Chapter came in and that was fully discussed and thrashed even at that time the members of the Constituent Assembly felt these difficulties because it is not a country with one religion, one language or one speculation. There are fourteen languages and fourteen linguistic states each state having one

language. They are all classified as National languages and on account of those difficulties they wanted to have one official language for the administrative purposes of the Union. When they thought about it a lead has been given earlier to that by Mahatma Gandhi. Being followers of Mahatma Gandhi and following his foot-steps and taking every word of his as Gospel having come from Heaven, they thought that Hindi should be pushed and made the Official Language at least to satisfy the soul of Gandhi and in that view they enacted Chapter XVII containing about four or five articles and the manner in which it was passed is something astounding. A most naughty problem, a most important problem, a problem that affects every individual not only in the administration but also in the regular daily life in the business circle in the students' circle, in official circle as a matter of fact in every circle and that is so the house was divided into two on this question and as it was divided and the votes were equal then the then President of the Constituent Assembly Dr. Rajendraprasad, who from his utterances we are able to see was also for Hindi, cast his vote in favour of the section that wanted Hindi as the Official Language of the Union, thereby 51 for and 50 were against, that provision was passed.

Legally it is correct by a majority of one vote, a most important problem has been settled by the Constituent Assembly. But though it was passed in that manner later everybody went into slumber over it. If I may be permitted to say a trick has been played by introducing certain provision in Chapter 17 of the Constitution. That 343 Article (1) says that the Official Language of India shall be Hindi. That means the day on which the Constituent Assembly is passed, the Official Language of the Union is Hindi from 1950. In Article 343 (2) what they have said is notwithstanding the Article which says that Hindi is the Official Language of the Union from the day in which the Constitution is passed, English shall be the language for official purposes of the Union as it was before the passing of the Constitution. That is section 343 (1) is given a go - by under section 343 (2). But what they have put under 343 (2) is that it shall be for 15 years. English shall be the language for all official purposes of the Union as it was before the passing of the Constitution means earlier to 1950 the position that English language occupied in the official circles and for the official purposes of the administration of the Union it will continue in the same manner from 1950 for a period of 15 years and in the other sub clause 343 (3) what they have said is after

the expiration of 15 years the Parliament may by law provide for the use of the English language – that is all they have said. That is after the expiration of 15 years under sub - clause (3) Parliament is given power under the Constitution to enact a law for the continuance of English. So after the expiration of 15 years the clause (2) where it says English language shall continue for a period of 15 years as the official language of the Union as it was before the passing of the Constitution comes to an end at the end of 15 years that is 26th January 1965. That clause becomes a dead letter. Then if English is to be continued Parliament take power under sub - clause (3) wherein it says the Parliament may pass a law providing for the continuance of English. Only under the sub - clause (3) the Official Language Act must have come into existence. In the Official Language Act what they have said is – that is passed in 1963 – the Parliament has passed that law in that in section 3 what they have said is "English may continue in addition to Hindi for the Official purposes of the Union". That means after January 26, 1965 what happens is the sub - clause (2) where it is mandatory to continue English Language as the Official Language of the Union having come to an end on the 26th January 1965 under the Official Language

Act under section 3 English may be used for Official purposes in addition to Hindi and further on 26th January 1965 343 sec.(1) where they have said Hindi is the Official language of the Union has come into full force on 26th January 1965. This is exactly what Nehru has said, Nehru's assurance, Nehru's assurance everybody has been asserting Nehru's assurance is this. English will continue as an Associate Language and until the non-Hindi speaking states do not want to continue. The same is provided under sec. 3 of the Official Language Act wherein it is said English may continue as the Official Language in addition to Hindi and the other clauses which go to say until non-Hindi States etc. So the same assurance is in a way incorporated in sec. (3) of the Official Languages Act. In spite of the sec. 3 of the Official Language Act which has come into force on 26th January 1965, because of the provision in the Constitution that Hindi is the Official Language of the Union and English may be used in addition to Hindi there is no statutory sanction behind the persons to use English or along with Hindi, English also to be used. That is why we find that entire secretariat of the Union Government has overnight changed all the forms all the correspondence, even statutory acts and everything into Hindi because they have known the full impli-

cation of it and we have not understood the full implications of it and we have been sleeping over there.

Now the present position has risen that our leaders say that they will proceed on the basis of Nehru's assurance. Nehru's assurance is English will be an associate language and it will continue so long as the non-Hindi States want it. The same provision is there in sec. 3 of the Official Languages Act. It may be continued. Then where is the sanctity for this and how is it to be used as an associate language. Is it with every Hindi word or Hindi letter that is pronounced or written by the Union Government English will follow automatically? Has the Hindi language advanced to such an extent as to have every equivalent for every English term? How are these States to understand that? So the very administration will be paralysed, if both the languages either simultaneously used or as the Hindi as the language of the Union and English an associate language wherein translations are to be given for every Hindi writing. So the position is that if they proceed on the basis of Nehru's assurance it will not take us anywhere. There will be again this confusion and it will paralyse even the administration to some extent at a certain

stage and at the present there is a communication now from the Central Government to the Chief Ministers to be considered at the Chief Ministers' Conference. In that what they say is that English will continue as an associate language along with Hindi until 75% of the legislatures of the non-Hindi speaking States decide about that. Now under the Official Languages Act Sec. 3 is now in force English may be used. There is absolutely no condition. It can be used till eternity until it is amended by law. Now for sec. 3 of the Official Language Act they are going to add a proviso to that Act that so long as the 75% of the legislatures of the non-Hindi speaking States decide, they can discontinue English now for the section where there is now it has got the force of using the English language as an associate language for all time without any limitation as it stands to-day. Under the proviso where we have agitated for not imposing Hindi, we do not want Hindi, we want to continue English and where there is the agitation and all that in order to satisfy these people and satisfy the desire to decide the question of language question now what they want is to introduce the condition in a proviso where there is already an existing law imposing certain conditions upon that for the discontinuance of that. That is the

idea of the Government. When they suggest it it comes from the Cabinet. In to-day's paper Mr. Sen has given a very sensible suggestion. But whatever it is, the problem must be decided once for all. Either the parents or the people or the public or the students cannot afford at another occasion to agitate and settle this problem. Having started this problem it must be settled now and now and now only. No question of any postponement, no question of any appeasement, no question of giving and taking and having a viamedia in these things. Whatever is even after 40, 50 or 100 years. What is to happen, but these until that time how it is to be administered that language should be settled once for all now. If we go on on that basis the present proposed amendment to sec. 3 of the Official Language Act will not satisfy that. Out of fourteen States there are six States which are non-Hindi speaking people. The rest are Hindi speaking people. When these people say that they are not in a position to take Hindi, either for our official or for our ordinary purpose, we are not prepared to take it. Having passed 15 years, having been in the Constitution that Hindi is the Official Language of the Union and we have to study and the Government has been spending crores and crores of rupees, both the Central Government and

States to spread Hindi and teach Hindi to people. 15 years have elapsed and we have not learnt anything either the elders or the youngsters and the language - I am told - because I have not studied, I have not looked into it. I have discussed this problem with many of our friends. They say it is no language. It is unfit for administrative purposes or even for any other purpose. When that is so whatever it is let the Hindi speaking have it: we are not bothered about it. So far as the 6 States are concerned, though 15 years have elapsed though it is present in the Constitution that Hindi is the official language and they are trying to make us learn, so that we may get prepared after 15 years to change over to Hindi language we are not in a position to take. And when that is so even if another 15 or 30 years whatever the limit is we may not be in a position to take. The language has yet to develop to a very great deal. Unless the language is fully developed it may not be possible. In such circumstances whether any appeasement like that, that is the present Hindi and English shall both be simultaneously bilingualism. Whether both can exist both for administrative purposes and for education and for competitive examination. Is it possible? They may talk so many things and to satisfy the people in a parti-

cular way having been agitated over this problem, just to say "You have got English also". But in the actual working of that both the languages can exist simultaneously both for administrative purposes and educational purposes. It is impossible even if they spend crores and crores, even if they train lakhs and lakhs of people to translate and keep these things ready it is impossible. If that is so then the non-Hindi speaking people let them continue in English, Hindi speaking people let them continue in Hindi. Even if they propose that then the communication between these states will be impossible and in the communication to the Central Government also the administrative difficulties will arise in the Union Government also. The practical difficulties we have to think over every minute are that we are not able to satisfy the emotions of the people. That is why the people are agitated over this. But they have to think about it deeply and we too have to assist them. So I request every one of you to think over in these lines and my own suggestion will be – it might be you may think it is extremely fantastic suggestion but the only solution as it stands now is each State to be come independent and to have a federal Government of the States. It is not a novel idea because that can only solve the problem. Because in Andhra he

will not give up Telugu, in Kerala he will not give up Malayalam. Whatever the language you may suggest as the official language he will not give up his own language. Then you have the problem of learning 3 languages. The other non-Hindi speaking people have got the strain of learning 3 languages, that is English, Hindi and their own language, whereas a Hindi speaking man he can give up everything and have only Hindi. Why I suggested this is that there will be federation of States and the federal Government will have limited power of having all the States under it for the purpose of defence currency and so many other subjects. Now in the Union Government the concentration of power is too much and they are at the stage of vomitting. If you want a small petty licence you have to run up to Delhi. Recently I came across an instance where for the manufacturing of pickles, they have enacted an enactment and there is a huge department to supervise that and it is in existence for 10 or 15 years. A man was having a building and he is having a licence and officer after officer they were supervising and suggesting 'do this and do that' for thousands of rupees and he has been doing it and all on a sudden an officer came there and said "This building is unfit for use for the manufacture of pickles". "You shift it to

some other place". He came to me. Then only I came to know about the existence of that Act at all. For even this thing there is an Act and when I looked into this Act the appeal is to the Central Government. There are very many enactments wherein we have to rush up to Central Government alone. Even for getting licences, permits and some of these appeals and other things and everything we have to run up to the Central Government. So there is too much of concentration. That is why there is a fight for power at the Centre and the State Governments have become Municipal bodies now. They have no other powers and that is why the State ministers are dependent upon the whims and fancies of the Union ministers. So in these circumstances decentralisation is the only method. If it is decentralised for appointments, for I. A. S. so many other Central Government appointments, special Government appointments drawing salaries of Rs. 1000, Rs. 3000 all these will go if it is decentralised and each State made independent and there is a federal Government to control the entire States in certain subjects alone. I think then the Central Government will have all the languages including the link language, because the administration is so small, because in other countries for all languages there are interpretors and translators,

because the administration is very little. Only on a higher scale the administration is growing. So each State will have its own language. There is absolutely no difficulty. Otherwise they have to have English as the only official language of the Union. If the Hindi speaking States were to insist that they will not accept English on the ground that it is a foreign language then we will have to ask that each State must be independent and there should be a federation of States and let there be decentralisation. That is the only alternative. That is my humble opinion and it may find favour or it may not find favour, because it may be something curious whatever it is. Now all that is stated and done Hindi is the official language and they want English as an associate language and the Hindi States want everything to be in Hindi and they are writing everything in Hindi to Union Government and to the other States. But when they go to the question of interpreting a statute or constitution - what language is the constitution they do not want English, they do not want to learn English, because it is a foreign language. They hate foreign language and foreigners who have ruled us. But how are you going to interpret the law when the constitution itself is in English? Where is the power for you to translate in Hindi? Have you

got such words in Hindi to translate that Constitution. If we are having the Constitution itself in English why you are ashamed to have the English as the Official Language. First translate the constitution and bring it into Hindi. You have to read that. Are you not ashamed? All these leaders were saying that you must be ashamed to continue English, because it has ruled us? Are they not ashamed to read the Constitution in English? So in these circumstances I have placed what it is. Please do not misunderstand me that I am imposing certain views upon you. This is not a meeting regular. I request everyone of you to discuss over these things and have a frank discussion over these things. All that I am anxious is we do not want our children and boys to suffer at the hands of the police and be subject to these incindiarisms and so many other things and also waste the time of the public the parents and the people and this should be settled once for all now even if you have to waste some more time instead of leaving it to a future date where things may go against and beyond our control and so many things might happen. So there is no use of appealing and so a final settlement has to be happily arrived at. So with these few words I thank you gentlemen for having given me this opportunity.

Speech by

Dr. Y. P. Vasudevan, M.B., B.S.,

Coimbatore.

Friends,

Mr. Kandasamy did not give me a chance with a protest against his kindness in voting me to the chair. I believe it is because, I presume also that I am the oldest member in this assembly to-day. Secondly I have never taken part in any politics. So rightly and truly this meeting is convened by non-party members. I think I have best qualification for that. There are people who are non-party men here, but who belonged to some parties years ago. This Kandaswamy may be one. However the voice of the non-partymen may reach the powers that be to decide this burning question which has all along been dorment suddenly got a grip and has convulsed the entire nation, both Hindivalas, Tamilwalas and any other language. This subject has been open to criticism, the people the Government for sometime and all along and a certain policy of drift, it appears to me, has been followed. Perhaps for reasons best known to themselves, they have allowed it to drift. I do not blame the Government for skirking the issue or

funking to come to a decision. At any rate the people did not realise fully the implications of the Language Act, passed by a majority of one. As a layman - I am not a jurist, I am not lawyer, I have no predilictions or prejudices in the matter. An important matter in all public meetings and public bodies when on any resolution the votes equally divided, the usual convention – I do not say immoral or illegal or use any strong expression – should be to allow the status quo. That is what is I have learnt during the last 50 years of existence in this world. Unfortunately on a burning question, when decision was to be taken, it should not have been taken. But Dr. Rajendraprasad, President of the Constituent Assembly, a man of great talents and who has sacrificed a lot for India chose to give his casting vote and it was taken quickly by the members of the Constituent Assembly. Not a single voice was raised to protest either in the Assembly or outside. So we thought knowing the way with which it was decided, all the people used their mind and influence to see that nothing was done to damage the interest of any section of the population, however small it may be. Whatever that may be, suddenly they decided to enforce the Act. Of course prior to that the Prime Minister gave an assurance and all sorts of protests

were raised. Some said that assurance was not enough, some said the wording is vague. Whatever that be to-day our young people, the students - I do not know about charges being made that they are acted on by interested people. As for myself I know the few students who took part in it, it was almost spontaneous. There was frustration. They were afraid of the way, how things were going. They would be losers and perhaps not first class citizens of India. There is no use blaming the one or the other. Now that question is seized by the public, we must find a solution as Mr. Kandasamy rightly put it here and now. There is no use postponing the issue until for a future date - a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority $\frac{3}{4}$ majority or it may be absolute majority. There are difficulties in taking the two languages together. There will be confusion unless we have two sections, the Hindi section of the secretariat and the English section of the secretariat and so on, that is the English section of the other languages. I am not a political expert to decide whether federation or the present united Indian States is to be preferred. I think a lot of discussion took place in the olden days. I think Sapru and Jayakar both formulated federalism, but went back for some reasons. Finally the constitution emerged and we have accepted it and you are

lawyers of the constitution. Then the only thing is that the constitution envisages equality of treatment, no prejudices, no hardships to anybody. If that is taken into account, I think we must decide that the status quo be continued until a $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of Parliament later on enact - we cannot bind the future - as Mr. Kandasamy says for all time. To-morrow the whole parliament may go into the question and decide anything, scrap the constitution and have another constitution. So my own suggestion is that the status quo may be adopted. This bilingualism - I am glad that there are people who oppose it even among the people who have influence and who count. Therefore there must be something wrong. Later you will see that two languages will cause confusion, that is unless as Mr. Kandasamy says each State is for itself and got for all. There will be no inter-communication between two states. Even as it is we are strangers in certain states where we cannot talk the common language, but English is still understood even by laymen in the villages. To say anything that $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ statistics may prove anything, I am not there for quoting it. I have seen people saying that very few know English. I have wandered fairly all over the country. I have been able to make myself understood in English even

in villages, the porters, the staunchest Hindiwala, he wants to understand. Ofcourse I can give one person as an instance of my going to a Railway reservation clerk in North India asking him for certain information. He was writing a draft in English. I could see it. But he was answering in Hindi, very pure Hindi, I know a smattering of Hindi, because of my colloquial dealings. But I could not understand a word of what I wanted. I begged of him to let me know what it is in English. He would not. Then I went to his superior. Instead of chastising the man for not giving me in English he simply took up the phone, got the information and passed on the information to me in English. That shows the psychology and mentality. I felt so sad that such a thing should happen. If this continues I do not know what would happen. It is very unfortunate it happened even two years ago. Therefore my own feeling is that status quo may continue and let us forget all emotions if you feel as I feel that India should be one where it has never been one for several decades. If you feel that India should be one which the present cabinet ministers and Union Government desire, there should be no disintegration. There should be happiness all over. My suggestion as a layman is that English may continue as the sole

Union language until such time that by common consent which is understood all over the world in a democracy they change the language act. I think I have done well and thank you for electing me as the president of the day. I do not think there is quite a lot of people willing to talk. I would like that may be limited to six. The resolution to be adopted may be drafted by some legal pundits and passed on to the authorities. I would very much like to know who is willing to speak on this subject and not covering the same ground which Mr. Kandasamy has elaborately done.

Lingua Franca of India English and only English.

By

Sri C. C. Hamza.

It is quite heartening to read the very statesman like statements on Hindi by D. M. K. leader Mr. Annadurai on his release on 1-2-1965 and later, his and that of Rajaji's stirring appeals to students to withdraw their agitation against Hindi. The appeals do not mean that battle is over. No, "the dies are cast" and "the crusade is on" and the fight shall be continued by the leaders adopting means and methods peaceful, giving respite to students. The fight is for the right over pride and obstinacy and for the great cause, every section of the society especially the intelligentsia of the South as a whole are behind the movement; and there shall be no compromise on principles.

President Kamaraj and other congress leaders of non-Hindi areas, like Nijalingappa, Sanjiva Reddy and Atulya Ghosh are appealing to Hindi zealots to speed down the enforcement of Hindi, while Shastri, Nanda group go on with clarifications, and some others are busy

with explaining the personal assurance given by late Prime Minister. I wonder, what these exhibits are, if not pricks of the guilty conscience. Even at this stage, when South is burning, there are leaders of the calibre of Union ex-minister of 14 Ct. gold and aspirant of Prime Ministership Mr. Morarji who regrets delay in enforcement of Hindi and socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia who wants now an all party conference for the sole purpose of abolishing English forthwith from India. These are some of our leading men in public life, who can see nothing beyond their necks and can never understand and appreciate the other point of view; may be they are fitted to be dictators than in a democratic set up. I pray, God save the nation from such men.

I am distressed to read the long, sugar-coated statements of both Chief Minister Bhaktavatsalam and Union Minister Subramaniam who harp on assurances and give nothing substantial. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam argues, if English is made the sole official language "it will mean imposition of English on Hindi speaking people". English is there already in Hindi areas, as in non-Hindi areas and as such how does the question of imposition arise or does he think English is the regional language

of all non-Hindi areas. *English which is common to all, if continued no region can take undue advantage over the other and that is the fact of the matter.* Can any one imagine that our C. M. is ignorant of even this elementary truth. He finds fault with political parties, educational authorities, Bar associations and all but miserably fails to find his own fault. Mr. Subramaniam who has made a mess of the food problem, and who pleads ignorance of the circular of his own department, stresses "that there will not be any constitutional amendments" and on this basis, leaders of opposition are to be invited to discuss the language question. Can opposition leaders of self-respect be expected to respond to this invitation of pre-conditioned and fettered talks. Less we think of these statements and those like of T. T. K. better. Suffice to contend, that they are their Hindi master's voices. As I wrote, I switched on to the radio to hear our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Shastri on 11-2-1965. It is quite disappointing; hopes are dupes, and I feel Delhi is yet very far off from South. If Mr. Subramaniam and Mr. Alagesan, Union Ministers from South have resigned, consoling the news are. Mr. Subramaniam has seen the light and wisdom has dawned on him along with Mr. Alagesan though late.

What are these assurances, and why? Do we people of non-Hindi areas stand with a begging bowl before Hindi Rajas for charities and favours? Are we not the proud citizens of this free India with equal rights and privileges? *What we stand for, is, while we do not demand to accept our regional language, how-ever rich and great that be as the official language of India, we expect the same spirit of accommodation and toleration be reciprocated to us by people of Hindi areas.* Their language shall not be forced on us in the memo and under the guise of the constitution. The mockery and hollowness of the position of the constitution, in this respect has been well pointed out by Mr. Kodanda Rao (Hindu 8-2-1965) and the constitutional pandits will read this though provoking letter with advantage. Whether real constitutional sanction is there or not, for this Hindi step, the rulers of Delhi, if they are people of vision, if they are practical statesmen, and not dreaming politicians, they shall repeal the act before it is too late. Even at this late hour, and while non-Hindi congress leaders still go on appealing for appeasement, from Hindi areas not a single voice is raised to the effect that 'Hindi' shall not be the lingua franca of India. Such a just cause, for which the whole of South stands, even moral support if is not forthcoming, how

good can be expected out of our union. In frustration, I feel, north is north, and south is south and the two shall not meet. I pray this is not true.

Just as darkness disappear, when sun rises, assurances fall flat before constitutional laws. Courts and officials, who are bound by law, are they to act according to law or stand by assurances. Assurances by persons or party may stand good as long as the party is in power and with the party goes their promises and the constitution remains.

In India, where 225 languages are spoken, and where 14 languages are approved as national languages, English is serving as the official language, most efficiently, internally and internationally. English which is most eminently suited for the purpose shall not be dethroned from the position which it is occupying for the last 200 years, under any false notions, of prestige; and that no other languages shall be associated with English as official language and the equilibrium disturbed. The folly and harm in bilingualism, in adopting both Hindi and English as official languages, have been well depicted besides other writers M/s. N. Murugesa Mudaliar, K. Rangaswamy and by our veteran leader

the most eminent Rajaji (Hindu 10-2-1965) and so also in the system of moderation in competitive examinations and quota system for states in the distribution of jobs in all India services.

English is not a foreign language. If it is foreign to India, it is foreign to England too; and all other languages which we claim as national, are foreign as well; the only difference being one is older than the other. English has been introduced in England after Norman conquest. So also, if Tamil is Dravidian language, they came from Central Asia, and Sanskrit if is attached to Aryans, they came later from there, and as such Tamil is older than Sanskrit; then came Persians who created Urdu for the local convenience, and from the amalgamation of Sanskrit, Persians and Urdu later came into existence the new Hindi which has no script and no originality of its own. Then came English with all her beauty and accomplishments. So, if English is foreign, all other languages which claim Indian are foreign as well. Besides, we have a section here, whose mother-tongue is English. Are they not citizens of India, as any other, with all rights and privileges? They are more national, in respect they are spread through out the land and not confined to any area or region as other linguistic groups are.

The rich and ever growing English language, which united us as Indians, which induced in us a fighting spirit for freedom, which taught us what the rights and privileges of the people are, what democracy is (before British rule, it is but a historical fact, we never had Government of the people) which gave us Parliamentary system of Government and established supremacy of law; English language which produced Shakespeare and Wordsworth, Tennyson and Milton, Byron and Bernardshaw, Edmund Burke, Nelson, Churchill and if their works in any field, literature or politics shall shine as long as English literature live, may as long as world exist, our contributions to enrich this world and international language, are not little; in fact Indian contribution to English language may stand second only to England. English speeches and writings of Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu and Toru Dutt, Frank Antony, K. L. Gouba and Pothan Joseph, Amir Ali and Moulana Mohammed Ali, Jinnah, Nehru, Rajaji shall remain ever glowing along with that of Englishmen. If Krishna Menon has spoken for hours together in the world assembly; and so Vijayalakshmi Pandit and Chagla and if we have a place in the comity of nations it is because of our attachment and command of English

language. "England expects everyman to do his duty". "Give me my freedom or my grave"; these soul stirring words of Nelson of England and Moulana Mohammed Ali of India respectively and the like and such undying and immortal words, will be ringing in the ears of every freedom loving men and women on the globe for all times. So under any perverted notions, if we are to think of abolishing of this good language of ours we shall be murdering and burying our own child and that will be the beginning of the end of civilisation. The uprise against imposition of Hindi has well indicated what is in store for us for the future. Poverty, disunity and chaos will prevail, for there is no other language or link to keep us together united.

So I appeal, in all humility and in all earnestness to all who have the good of the nation, progress and prosperity of the people, unity and integrity of India and a place in the comity of nations to retain and to allow to continue English *and only English* as the official language of India, internally and internationally.

Speech by

Mr. G. K. Sundaram,

Coimbatore.

Gentlemen,

I will not take much of your time this being a non-political meeting. For the time being I forget that I belong to a political party. Our speaker Mr. Kandasamy has very clearly expressd and defined the present situation. All the people in power are the people who are in favour of Hindi language. They are asking only for a pound of flesh. Because it is there in the constitution because it says that on a particular day it must be they wanted to use it. They refuse to think whether it is good to end that English language on that particular day or to be continued. They refuse to think about it. That is the saddest point about it. If our country had been pursuing a policy other than the Industrial developments as we are doing for the last 15 years, continuance or change over to a language like Hindi may be suitable. But under the present circumstances, under the present policy that we are following, is it right to change over to this

new language or the language of Hindi? Will it help us to develop industrially and economically? Nobody seems to have thought about it. It is on such an important point the house was divided half and half and it was only decided in favour of Hindi by the President's vote. Therefore it is such a vital problem at that time 15 years back and now the problem is much more severe and if it is to be discussed I am sure the right thinking people will be in favour of retaining English. But no opportunity or no chance has been given to them, because it is there on the statute it must end. Continuing English some people think it is non patriotic. We are doing so many other things which are non-Indian. Actually every day we are leaving our civilisation and so many other things which we are so particular and fond of is being changed to-day and I do not think that by continuing English we will be non-patriotic. It is a mere imagination that talking of any other language is non-patriotic or is not being an Indian in every sense of it. My friend Mr. Kandasamy has suggested the federal Government. But the problem there it is much more serious and it is much more difficult than merely continuing the statusquo. When they are not able to persuade the rest of the people in this country to continue what has been in

practice for the last 15 years, they say it is possible to make them to agree for a Federal Government. If for the last 15 years they have been following the other way, opposite way, it is too big a reversal and too different a task that they have to make a complete right about turn which will be an impossible task. Let is consider for a few minutes. To-morrow if the Hindi continues for another 4 years, just imagine what may happen of the conditions after 5 years. Definitely all the English news papers are going to be stopped. Further within the time it is quite impossible to get all the Hindi newspapers, circulars or literature, knowledge or anything that is to be imparted to the public will not be possible. So there will be a gap for a few years completely no communication between the either Government and the people or between the States and Centre. It will create chaos and confusion. It shall never be repaired or set right even if we decide in favour of English after the 5 years. This has already happened in Maharastra. You can see one generation of people who have not studied English to-day when they are about 25 or 30 years of age that group is to-day far behind than either the people who studied before them or the people who are now studying or now in the colleges. Therefore my suggestion is that we should only

maintain the statusquo. What we had been continuing for the 15 years must be maintained. Even the bilingual proposition will create further problems and create more confusion and bitterness. The Central Government will be issuing their communications in Hindi and we will be replying in English if we understand them and all these will be put in the waste paper basket and their communications will be delayed not knowing what to do with them. This is only a retrograde step. It will not help developments or the progress of the industrial developments of our country. Therefore I request you to consider this point. If the people whether the members of the Parliament or the ruling party are so keen or to enforce the constitution from 26th of January, first let them translate the Constitution in Hindi and satisfy the members of the Parliament that it is a true version of the English Constitution. Once they satisfy this then they can enforce that language. Until that time, the Hindi Pundits are able to bring out a Constitution in Hindi to the same equivalents in force in terms in wording and what not of the present English Constitution, this move must be postponed and if they are able to satisfy the Parliament that the Hindi version of the Constitution is as good as the English version, then we can say that

Hindi language is fit to rule and that can be dealt with. Until such time statusquo should be maintained and I hope you will all support this. Thank you.

Speech by

Sri G. D. Naidu,

Coimbatore.

தலைவர் அவர்களே, நண்பர்களே,

முன்பு இருந்தபடியே இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஸ்ரீ சுந்தரமும் ஸ்ரீ கந்தசாமியும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இன்றைக்கு ஒரு பேப்பரில் படித்தேன். அதாவது கணக்கில் காங்கிரசுக்கு ரூ. 98 லட்சம் எலக்ஷனுக்கு கிடைத்திருக்கிறது. அப்புறம் ஸ்வராஜ்யாவுக்கு 15 லட்சமோ அல்லது 1.5 லட்சமோ சரியாகத் தெரியவில்லை. லோயஸ்டு திராவிடக் கழகத்திற்கு 5 ரூபாய். இந்தத் துகைகள் கணக்கில் கிடைத்தது. கணக்கில் இல்லாமல் கிடைத்தது எவ்வளவென்றால், இந்த ஊரில் இருக்கும் காங்கிரஸ் நண்பர்கள் வந்து கேட்டார்கள். "ஒரு பஸ் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூபாய் 500 போட்டிருக்கிறது நீங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்" என்று கேட்டார்கள். சிலபேருக்கு ரூ. 1000/- ம் போட்டிருக்கிறதாம். ரூபாய் 500/- அதற்கு கம்மி இல்லை. 4, 5 வருஷத்திற்கு முன்பு இங்கு 3,500 பஸ்கள் இருந்தன. இப்பொழுது எத்தனை பஸ்கள் இருக்கின்றன என்பது தெரியாது. இப்பொழுது சுமார் 5,000 பஸ்கள் இருக்கலாம். 5,000 பஸ்கள் இருந்தால், 500, 500 ரூபாயாக கொடுத்திருந்தாலும் கூட மொத்தம் சுமார் $2\frac{1}{2}$ கோடி இருக்கும். கணக்கில் வைக்காமல் கொடுக்கிற துகை இது. பஸ் சொந்தக்காரர்களெல்லாம் கணக்கில் காட்டி கொடுப்பதில்லை. அப்புறம் இனியும் கணக்

கில் இல்லாமல் கொடுப்பது நிறைய இருக்கிறது. $2\frac{1}{2}$ கோடிக்கு குறைச்சல் இல்லை இந்த ஊருக்கு. அதேமாதிரி எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் கிடைத்துக் கொண்டுதான் இருக்கும்.

இப்பொழுது என்ன செய்ய வேணுமென்றால், நாம் என்ன சொன்னாலும் அந்த முரட்டுப் பேர்வழிகள் அதை பாஸ் செய்துதான் வைப்பார்கள். இரண்டும் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று பாஸ் பண்ணியே தீர்வார்கள். நமது மந்திரிகளில் 1, 2 ராஜினமா செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு நாம் சந்தோஷப் படவேண்டியதுதான். அவர்கள் ஏதோ வாபீஸ் வாங்கிக்கொண்டார்கள். அங்கே போனால் அவர்களுக்குப் பணிந்துதானே போகவேண்டும். நானும் கூட முறுக்கமாக திருச்சியிலும் மதராஸிலும் பேசினேன். டில்லிக்குப் போய்விட்டு நேற்றுத்தான் வந்தேன். அங்கே போனால் நானும்கூட நைசாகத்தான் பேசவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. எனக்கே அந்த மாதிரி மனப்பான்மை இருந்தால் அவர்கள் என்ன செய்வார்கள். அதாவது பண்ணினார்களே. இரண்டு பேராவது ராஜினமா செய்தார்கள், அதைப் பற்றி சந்தோஷப்பட வேண்டியதுதான். பாக்கியெல்லாம் "டெயில் பேரர்ஸ்தான்". அங்கிருப்பவர்களுக்கு விரோதமாகப் போனால் அவர்களுடைய வேலை போய்விடும். அதற்காக அந்த இந்தி வாலாக்களை வாலைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது நாம் என்ன சொன்னாலும் அது ஒன்றும் நடக்கப்போவதில்லை.

மாணவர்கள் பெயரை வைத்துக்கொண்டு காங்கிரஸில் இருப்பவர்களே – கம்யூனிஸ்டும்கூட அல்ல – கம்யூனிஸ்டும்கூடத்தான். கம்யூனிஸ்டு எங்கு

இந்த மாதிரி சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைக்கிறதோ அங்கெல்லாம் தகரூறு எற்படுத்துவது வழக்கம். லேடின் அமெரிக்காவில் 2 வருஷத்தில் கம்யூனிஸ்டுகள் 390 கலகங்களை ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதெல்லாம் சிறு சிறு கலகங்களாக இருக்கலாம். இங்கு அவர்களுக்கு நல்ல சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்தது. பொள்ளாச்சியில் சுடப்பட்டவர்கள் 10 பேர்கள் என்று பேப்பரில் போட்டிருந்தது, அது உண்மை அல்ல. சுடப்பட்டு செத்தவர்கள் 84 பேர். 40 ரவுண்டு சுட்டார்கள். 10,000 பேர்கள் இருந்தால், ஒரு குண்டு இரண்டு அல்லது மூன்று பேர்களைத் துளைத்துக்கொண்டு போகும். 40 ரவுண்டு சுடப்பட்டது என்றால், ஒரு ரவுண்டுக்கு 2 பேராக 84 பேர்கள் என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் 10 பேர் என்றும் 4 பேர் என்பதாக பேப்பரில் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்னும் வேறு இடங்களில் எவ்வளவு பேர் சுட்டுக் கொல்லப்பட்டார்களோ தெரியவில்லை. திருப்பூரில் இரண்டு சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களை உயிருடன் எரித்தது மிகவும் முட்டாள் தனம். அவர்களுக்கு சுடச்சொல்லி உத்திரவு இருந்தது, அதனால் சுட்டார்கள், அதற்காக அவர்களை கொல்வதா? அந்த மாதிரி இனியொரு தடவை 3, 4 மாதங்களில் நடக்கப்போகிறது. அது நடக்காமலிருப்பதற்கு என்ன வேணுமென்றால், இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறது அப்படியே இருக்கட்டும். சைனா ரெடியாக தக்ரார் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. திபெத்தில் எல்லா முஸ்தீபுகளும் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. அதைவிட அதிகமான வேலை இங்கு கரப்சனில் நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. அதையும் மீறி இங்கு மேற்கொண்டு ரெயிட்ஸ் (Raids) கூட நடக்கிறது. இவ்வளவும் இருக்கும்போது அறிவுள்ள கவர்ன்மெண்டாய் இருந்தால், இதை

பேசாது விட்டுக் கொடுத்திருக்கவேண்டும். எப்பொழுது 26-ம் தேதி கொஞ்சம் கலவரம் நடந்ததோ அப்பொழுதே வாபீஸ் வாங்கியிருக்கவேண்டும். அது கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. இனியாவது தெரிந்துகொள்வார்களென்று நினைக்கிறேன். அதைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு இந்த எமர்ஜென்சி முடியும் வரைக்கும் அப்படியே இருக்கட்டுமென்று சொல்லி நாம் இப்பொழுது ஒரு தீர்மானம் போட்டு அனுப்பலாம். ஆனால் நாம் செய்யவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால், அடுத்த தேர்தலுக்கு காங்கிரஸுக்கு ஒரு ரூபாயும்கூட கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. எவன் காங்கிரஸுக்கு ஓட் செய்கிறானோ அவனை ஜாதியிலிருந்து தள்ளிவைக்கவேண்டும் (பலத்த சிரிப்பு). அந்த மாதிரி செய்து காங்கிரஸை பிச்சை எடுக்கச் செய்ய வேண்டும். ஆனால் காங்கிரஸ் தோற்றால் வேறு எது வந்து நிலைக்கப்போகிறது? D. M. K., D. K., சோஷலிஸ்டு வந்தால் அவர்களே ஒன்றுக்கொன்று சண்டைபோட்டுக் கொள்வார்கள். அப்பொழுது எந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டும் இருக்காது. அந்த சமயத்தில் கம்யூனிஸ்டுகள் வந்து நுழைவார்கள், அது ஒரு ஆபத்தாக முடியும். அதனாலே காங்கிரஸ்தான் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் காங்கிரஸ் இருக்கிறவரைக்கும் இப்படித்தான் இருக்கும். இந்த மாதிரி சைனியத்தையும் போலீசையும் வைத்துக்கொண்டு சுட்டுத்தள்ளிக்கொண்டேதான் இருப்பார்கள். எப்படியும் காங்கிரஸை தலைத்து விட்டு அப்புறம் மேல் என்ன நடக்கிறதென்று பார்க்கலாம். கம்யூனிஸ்டோ அல்லது வேறு எந்தக் கட்சி வந்தாலும் பொருத்துக்கொள்ளலாம், ஆனால் இதைப் பொருக்க முடியாது. அதனால் சைனா, கரப்சன், ரெயிட்டு இதுவெல்லாம் சேர்ந்து கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு இடைஞ்சல் கொண்டுவந்து கவர்ன்

மெண்டையே கவிழ்த்துவிடும், சைனுவும் உடனே வந்துவிடும். ஆகையினுலே இதுவெல்லாம் ஒன்றும் வேண்டாம். பின்னுல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். அரசியல் சட்டத்தை செய்தது ஒரு பார்ட்டி, அதை இவர்கள் எப்படி ஒத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். 2/3 அங்கத்தினர்கள் கான்ஸ்டிடியூசனை பாஸ் பண்ணவேண்டும் அந்தமாதிரி இனியொருதரம் 2/3 மெம்பர்களால் கான்ஸ்டிடியூசனை பாஸ் செய்யச் சொல்லி கேட்கலாம். அதுவும் அடுத்த எலக்ஷனுக்குப் பிறகு அந்த மாதிரி செய்யவேண்டும். அதுவரைக்கும் இப்படியே இருக்கட்டும். அடுத்த எலக்ஷனுக்கு முன்போ அல்லது எமர்ஜென்சி முடிகிற வரைக்குமோ ஒன்றும் செய்யவேண்டாமென்று இப்படியே இருக்கட்டுமென்று ஒரு தீர்மானம் போட்டு அனுப்பலாமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். அடுத்த எலக்ஷன் வந்தால் அதற்கு அப்புறம்தான் நீங்கள் சொன்னமாதிரி பெடரல் கவர்ன்மெண்டு இருக்கவேண்டும். இந்தக் கவர்ன்மெண்டில் ஒன்றும் நடக்கப்போவதில்லை. கத்தரிக்காயுக்கும்கூட டில்லிக்குப் போகவேண்டியிருக்கிறதென்றுல் ரயிலில் என் கூட்டமிருக்காது, பிளேனில் என் கூட்டமிருக்காது. காலணு கார்டு மூல்யமாய் ஆகிற வேலைக்கு ஒரு ஆள் இங்கிருந்து 1,000, 2000, சிலவு செய்துகொண்டு டில்லிக்குப் போகவேண்டும். கல்யாணம் செய்யவேணுமென்றுல் அதற்கும் டில்லிக்குப் போகவேண்டும். ஏனென்றுல் அரிசி வாங்க வேண்டுமல்லவா. இப்படி எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் டில்லிக்குப் போகவேண்டும். ராத்திரியில் புருஷன் பெண்சாதி படுத்துக்கொள்வதற்குத்தான் இன்னும் லைசென்சு இல்லை. பாக்கி எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் லைசென்சு. எதிலும் இன்டிபெண்டென்சு என்று எதிலும் இன்டிபெண்டென்சு கிடையாது. அந்த இன்டிபெண்டென்செல்லாம் இனியொரு எலக்ஷனுக்

கப்புறம் பேசிக்கொள்ளலாம். இப்பொழுது அது வரைக்கும் ஒன்றும் வேண்டாமென்று ஒரு தீர்மானம் அனுப்பலாம்.

Speech by

Sri M. Karuppannan, B. A., B. L.,

Advocate, Tiruppur.

மதிப்பிற்குறிய தலைவர் அவர்களே,

திருப்பூரிலிருக்கும் வழக்கறிஞனுக் அதிலும் இளம் வழக்கறிஞனுக சில ஆண்டுகள் மட்டும் வக்கீலாக அனுபவமுள்ள சிறியேனுகிய நான் ஒரு சில கருத்துக்களை இந்த மிகச் சிறந்த அறிவு கலந்த பெரியோர்களிடையே தெரிவிக்க உங்களுடைய பெருமை மிகுந்த அனுமதியை வேண்டுகிறேன்.

இங்கு பேசின பெரியவர்கள் மிக அழகாகச் சொன்னுர்கள். அதாவது இந்த ஆட்சி மொழியைப் பற்றிய கொள்கையில் அரசாங்கம் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையை மீண்டும் குழப்பகரமான நிலைமைக்கு நீடிக்கவிடக்கூடாது, ஆங்கிலமே ஆட்சி மொழியாக நீடிக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவர்கள் பேசினுர்கள். அதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்ருல், அதிகாரிகளும் மற்றும் சில அதிகாரமில்லாத சில தலைவர்களின் தடங்கல் பல நாட்களாக தமிழ் நாட்டில் மிகுந்த ஒரு கொடுமையான நிகழ்ச்சியை நாம் கண்டோம். அதிலும் திருப்பூரிலே இருந்து வந்தவனுகிய நான் எனக்கு நேர்ந்த ஒரு கன்ருவியான காட்சியைப்பற்றி உங்கள் முன்னுலே சொல்ல அனுமதி கேட்கின்றேன். என்னவென்ருல், திருப்பூர் நகரத்தில் பல கொடுமையான சம்பவங்கள் பல நடந்துவிட்டன. அப்பொழுது ஒரு பகுதியான சில கலகக்காரர்கள் நான் வசிக்கின்ற போலீஸ் லைனுக்கு வந்தார்கள். இதை நான் சில நண்பர்

களிடம்தான் சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன், மற்றவர்களிடம் சொன்னது கிடையாது. நான் வசிக்கின்ற போலீஸ் லைன் பகுதிக்கு மிகவும் உத்வேகத்தோடு அதாவது ஒருவன் துப்பாக்கியால் சுட்டு அந்த ரத்தம் பொங்கு கின்ற அந்த கோரக் காட்சியைப் பார்த்துவிட்டு ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட பகுதிமட்டும் நான் வசிக்கின்ற போலீஸ் லைனின் பகுதிக்கு ஆவேசமாக வந்தார்கள். அப் பொழுது எங்கள் வீட்டிற்குப் பக்கத்திலே குடி யிருப்பவர்கள் குஜராத்தி நாட்டைச் சேர்ந்த இரண்டு சேட்மார் குடும்பத்தினராவர். என் வீட்டிற்கு எதிரில் போலீஸ்காரர் வீடுகள் வரிசையாக இருக் கிறது. அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் எங்கள் வீதிக்கு வருகிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் Dr. V. P. நாயர் அவர்களுடைய ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கு அருகில் நின்று கொண்டிருந்தேன். இந்தச் செய்தியைக் கேட்ட தும் நான் ஓடோடியும் வந்து என் வீட்டிற்குப் பக்கத்தில் நின்றுகொண்டு, என் வீட்டிற்குப் பக்கத்திலிருக்கிற அந்த குஜராத்தி மாதர்களை உள்ளே போய்விடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னேன். கலகக்காரர்கள் வருகிறார்களென்று சொன்னேன். அவர்களும் உள்ளே போய்விட்டார்கள். நான் என் வீட்டிற்குப் போய் காலிங் பெல்லை அடித்து உள்ளே போவதற்குள் அந்த ஆர்பாட்டக்காரர்கள் என்னு டைய வீட்டிற்கு முன் வந்து நின்றுவிட்டார்கள். அந்த வீதியிலே நான் ஒருவன் மற்றும் 150 பேர்கள் தான் இருக்கின்றார்கள். அப்பொழுது நான் அவர் களைப் பார்த்து சொல்லி என்னுடைய கை கால் களெல்லாம் எவ்வளவு நடுங்கின என்பதை எடுத்துச் சொல்ல முடியாது. ஏனென்றால் அந்த சமயத்தில் அவர்கள் இருந்த வேகமும் எனக்கு இருந்த பதட்ட மும் அளவிலே எடுத்துக் கூற முடியாததாகும். நான் அப்பொழுது அவர்களிடத்தில் சொன்னேன்

"நீங்கள் யாரோ உத்திரவு போடுகிருர்கள், யாரோ உங்கள் மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கிருர்கள் என்பதற்காக, இங்கு தாய்மார்களும் பச்சிளங் குழந்தைகளும் இருக்கின்ருர்கள் இவர்கள் மீது நீங்கள் ஆத்திரத்தில் ஏதாவது செய்வீர்களாளுல் அதஞல் போராட்டமே களங்கமடைந்துவிடும். தமிழ்நாட்டிலே உள்ள ஒவ்வொரு அறிவுள்ளவனும் இந்தி ஆட்சி மொழியாக இருக்கக்கூடாதென்றுதான் சொல்லுவான். ஆகையிஞல் போராட்டம் என்பது நாம் பலி கொடுப்பதற்கல்ல, பலி வாங்குவதற்குத்தான், தயவுசெய்து போய்விடுங்கள் என்று வற்புறுத்திச் சொன்னேன். கண்களில் தண்ணீரும் வந்து விட்டது, நான் அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிற கண்ணுடியும்கூட அந்த ஆட்டத்தில் கீழே விழுந்துவிட்டது. என் மனேவி கதவைத் திறந்து "உள்ளே போய் விடுங்கள்" என்று அழுக ஆரம்பித்தாள். அப்பொழுது ஆர்பாட்டக்காரர்கள் "நாங்கள் உங்களே ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லே, நாங்கள் இந்த போலீஸ் லேனுக்குப் பக்கம்தான் போகின்ருேம். அவர்களுக்கு மட்டும்தான் குழந்தைகுட்டிகள் இருக்கிறதா? குண்டுபட்டு செத்துப்போஞனே அவனுக்கு குடும்பம் இல்லேயா" என்றெல்லாம் சொன்ஞர்கள். அப்பொழுது நான் சொன்னேன் "உங்கள் காலிலே வேணுமென்ருல் நான் விழுந்து கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன், தயவுசெய்து இந்தப் பக்கம் போகவேண்டாம்" என்று என் கண்களில் நீர்வடியச் சொன்னேன். அந்த நேரத்தில் ஆர்பாட்டக்காரர்கள் இவ்வளவு தூரம் அழவேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லி விட்டு திரும்பிப் போய்விட்டார்கள். அதற்குப் பிறகு அரைமணி நேரம் கழித்து அதே வீதியில் இருந்த முதல் வீட்டு போலீஸ்காரன் மனேவி, கர்ப்பிணியான அந்தப் பெண்மணி தன் தம்பியையும்

இனியும் இரண்டு மூன்று குழந்தைகளையும் என்னு டன் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து "இங்கே வீட்டிலே தங்கிவிடுகிறேன்" என்று சொன்னார்கள். அந்த அம்மையாருக்கு இரவு முழுவதும் என் வீட்டிலேயே இடம் கொடுத்தேன். அதற்குப் பிறகு மறுநாள் காலையில் அந்த அம்மையார் ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்குக் கொண்டுசெல்லப்பட்டு அங்கே பிரசவம் ஏற்பட்டது. இதையெல்லாம் இங்கு நான் ஏன் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன் என்றால், வடநாட்டில் இருக்கும் – அதாவது நான் வடநாடு தென்னாடு என்று பிரித்துச் சொல்ல வர வில்லை – அதாவது மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தில் இருக் கும் ஒரு சிலரும் மொழிப் பிரச்சினையிலே எது திட்டவட்டமாக நமது நாட்டிற்கு ஏற்றது, நமது நாட்டின் ஒற்றுமைக்கு எது பாதுகாப்பாக இருப்பது என்பதைத் தெரியாமல், இங்கே இருக்கும் மக்களின் உள்ளத்தை புரிந்துகொள்ளாமல் ஏற்படுத்துகின்ற பல இக்கட்டான வேலைகளின் பலனாக பல தமிழ் உயிர்கள் இந்த நாட்டிலே பலியாகின்றன. அதோடு கூட எண்ணற்ற பலர் தெருக்களிலே நடமாடக்கூட வரமுடியாமல் தவிக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. சின்னஞ் சிறு குழந்தைகளைக் கூட பள்ளிக்கு அனுப்ப முடியாத நிலைமை நமக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக் கிறது. தாய்மார்கள் தங்கள் வீடுகளிலேயிருந்து வெளியே வருவதற்கு இயலாமல் இருக்கிறது. இத்தகைய நிலைமைகளெல்லாம் இருக்கக்கூடிய ஒரு நிலைமை இருக்குமென்று சொன்னால், நாம் ஏன் இத்தகைய கொடுமையை அனுபவிக்கவேண்டும் என்கிறதை நாம் சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். நம்முடைய நாட்டில் இன்றைக்கு ஆட்சியும் சட்ட மும் நல்ல முறையில் இருக்கவில்லை. ஒரு குடி மகனுக்கு தன்னுடைய உயிரைப் பொருத்தவரை யிலும் உடமையைப் பொருத்தவரையிலும் ஆபத்

தான சூழ் நிலைமை இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னால் மக்களுடைய எழுச்சி எந்த அளவுக்கு இருக்குமென்பதை மத்திய அரசாங்கம் சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டுமென்றுதான் நான் பணிவுடன் கேட்டுக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

அதோடுகூட அல்லாமல் எனக்கு முன்னாடி பேசிய சில தலைவர்கள் மிக அழகாகக் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். அதாவது ராஜேந்திர பிரசாத் சட்டத்தை உருவாக்குகின்ற சபைத் தலைவராக இருந்து அவர் போட்ட ஒரே கேஸ்டிங் ஓட்டினால் தான் இந்தி அரசியல் சட்டத்தில் சேர்க்கப்பட்டது என்று பொதுவாகச் சொன்னார்கள். ஏறக்குறைய அரசியல் சட்டம் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட 15 ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகு இந்தி இந்தநாட்டு ஆட்சி மொழியாக இருக்க இயலாது என்கிற கூக்குரலைத்தான் மக்கள் மிக மிக அதிகமாக எடுத்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். இதை யாரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது. அதே சமயத்தில் தேசத் தலைவர்களும் மஹாத்மாகாந்தி போன்றவர்களும் இந்திதான் இந்த நாட்டிற்கு ஆட்சி மொழியாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் தயவுசெய்து சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். இந்தி இந்தநாட்டிற்கு இணைப்பு மொழியாக இருக்குமென்று பிறகு மஹாத்மா போன்றவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் நம்முடைய அனுபவத்திலிருந்து இந்தி எக்காரணத்தைக் கொண்டும் இந்த நாட்டிற்கு இணைப்பு மொழியாக இருக்கமுடியாது. ஆனால் இந்த நாட்டு ஒருமைப்பாட்டை இந்த நாட்டின் அரசியலைத் திருப்பக்கூடிய நிலமையில்தான் இந்தி இருக்குமேயொழிய, இந்தியாவினுடைய ஒற்றுமைக்கு இந்தி என்றும் காரணமாக இருக்கமுடியாது என்பதை நமது

அனுபவங்கள் நிரூபித்துவிட்டன. காந்தியார் அவர்கள்தான் இந்தியை அரசியல் சட்டத்திலே சேர்த்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். இந்தி இந்தநாட்டினுடைய ஆட்சி மொழி என்று சொன்னார்கள். காந்தியாரே சொல்லிவிட்டார் நாம் அதை எதிர்க்கலாமா என்று ஒரு சிலர் தீவிர வாதிகள் இந்திக்கு ஆதரவாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு சொல்லக்கூடிய வார்த்தை இது ஒன்றுதான். அதே புனிதமான காந்தியாரவர்கள் ஒரு இடத்தில் அழகாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். எந்த அளவுக்கு மீறிய திருப்பு முறையும் உண்மையான மக்களின் எழுச்சி உருவாகும் என்று சொன்னார். அத்தகைய மக்களின் கருத்தை மதிப்பதுதான் ஜனநாயகம். இந்தி பேசாத நாம் தமிழகம், வங்காளம், கன்னட ராஜ்ஜியம், ஒரிசா, கேரளம் என்கிற மாநிலங்களெல்லாம் இந்தி ஆட்சி மொழியாவதை விரும்பவில்லை. மக்களுடைய எழுச்சியை கடந்த பல நாட்களாக நாம் ஜனநாயக அமைப்பின்மூலம் தெரியப்படுத்துகின்றோம். 1965 ஜனவரிக்குப் பின்னால் தமிழகத்தைப் பொருத்த வரையில் மிகப் பிடிவாதமான முறையிலே மக்களின் எழுச்சி உயர்ந்துவிட்டது. மக்கள் தங்கள் உயிர்களை அர்ப்பணித்தார்கள். அதோடுமட்டுமின்றி அண்மையிலிருக்கிற ராஜ்ஜியங்களெல்லாம் இந்திக்கு எதிர்ப்புத் தெரிவித்தார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையில் இன்றைக்கு அரசியலார் சொல்லப்படுகின்ற அந்த இரண்டு மொழி என்கின்ற தீர்மானம் நாம் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளலாமா, கூடாதா என்பதுதான் பிரச்சினை. சுருக்கமாகச் சொன்னால் ஆங்கிலம் நமக்காக இருந்தாலும் சரி அல்லது இந்தி பேசாத பகுதி மக்களாயிருந்தாலும்சரி எல்லோருக்கும் அன்னிய மொழி. ஆனால் இந்தி ஒரு சிலருக்கு தாய்மொழி, மற்றவர்களுக்கு அன்னியமொழி. இந்தமாதிரி இருக்கும்போது

இந்திதான் இந்நாட்டின் ஆட்சிமொழியென்று சொன்னால் அரசியல் சட்டத்தில் சேர்த்திருக்கின்ற 14 மொழி மக்கள் இன்னலடைவார்களா இல்லையா என்பதை உண்மையான அறிவாற்றல் படைத்தவர்கள் சிந்தித்துப் பார்த்து சொல்லவேண்டும். ஆகையால் எல்லோருக்கும் பொதுவாக இருக்கக்கூடிய ஆங்கிலமொழிதான் ஆட்சிமொழியாக இருக்க வேண்டும். எனது மதிப்பிற்குறிய தலைவர்களே எனக்கு இந்த நல்வாய்ப்பு கொடுத்ததற்கு எனது நன்றிகலந்த வணக்கத்தை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

Speech by

S. R. Subramaniam,

Tiruppur.

Mr. President and Non-Party friends,

At the outset I would request the subsequent speakers not to follow Mr. Karuppannan, an advocate. He was not telling facts about the language issue, but the narration of the disturbances in our country. As our learned friend Mr. Kandasamy has suggested I think this assembly is not competing to suggest amendments to the Constitution or remaking the Constitution. Our Chief Minister Hon'ble Baktavatsalam is not willing to accept this language question a national issue, but only a party issue initiated by opposite party which is a non-Congress party. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister even now refuses to take this language question as a national issue. I think he says it **is** only a party issue and Hon'ble Baktavatsalam's view is supported by Rastrapathi Kamaraj. So it is our earnest desire to this convention as Mr. Kandasamy suggested this convention must be a permanent body to fight for the continuance of English as the official language and at this

juncture I want to appeal to members of Parliament from South especially Hon'ble Subramaniam who resigned. I think it is a sort of stunt. As a minister he has resigned. He ought not to have resigned and go to his place before the acceptance of his resignation by the prime minister and the Cabinet. This I feel is a conspiracy by the party in power to see that the fight is put out and moreover I pray the Almighty that better counsel should prevail our Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Baktavatsalam not to announce that it is a party issue initiated with agitation by the opposite party and it is a national issue of India and out and out Indian and we feel so far you see this country is disintegrated instead of integration as our national leaders profess to. With this few words I wanted you in the first this convention must continue as a permanent body to fight to the last that English must continue as official language of our country leaving the statusquo in the country to remain. Thank you.

Speech by

Sri Krishnasamy,

Retd. Officer, State Bank of India, Coimbatore.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I think it is highly presumptious on my part to speak to you about the language issue. This meeting consists of probably the flower of Coimbatore society and what has been said already about this language issue, I think, has been absolutely stated here, because everyone has been following what has been appearing in the press and yet enough and more has been said on the language issue and all that we now have to do is to look at it from the national point of view and to see how far there is any justification for the Hindiwala to say that Hindi is the language of the majority. There is another language which is spoken from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This is a language which everybody knows and it is a language passed being a universal language. Why not bring it into a constitution. They are going to force Hindi down on our throat and Mr. Kandasamy has suggested his own solution. Mr. G. D. Naidu has suggested another solution. But

I suppose that both of them can be linked and I say as long as the emergency continues, let the statusquo be maintained. But after that we will consider the question and you also found out that it is all humbug and that is pure hypocracy for the Hindi-wallas to say that English is a foreign language and therefore they do not want it. Mr. Gandhi and Nehru attained their prominance because of their association with English language. Therefore most of them are nothing but mere hypocrats. We do not want any more of hypocracy. We want to continue English which is not a foreign language. I put it to you that we combine both the ideas of what Mr. Kandasamy has suggested and what Mr. G. D. Naidu has suggested and then make up a resolution and send it to them to say "that until the emergency in the country exist the statusquo must be maintained". English must be the only language and this stunt as moderation as examination in Hindi is nothing but eyewash. It cannot be done. So English must be the only Official language of the Union and that English must be the only medium for all the competitive examinations. Thank you.

Resolution drafted and read by
Mr. C. P. Kandasamy, Coimbatore.

The resolution reads like this - Resolved that in the interest of integrity of India, we are strongly of opinion that there should be only one official language of the Union of India and that language should be English and for that purpose Constitution to be suitably amended and that bilingualism is unworkable and that to give statutory recognition to Nehru's assurances is not sufficient safeguard for the continuance of English.

Another resoluion :-

Resolved that we make an earnest appeal to the leaders and representatives of Parliament and Legislators and Cabinet Ministers to solve the language issue now once for all frankly and sincerely without any mental reservation or verbal ambiquity without leaving it to a future date, as the citizens of the country are agitated over it.

Printed at

U. M. S. POWER PRESS,
COIMBATORE.